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COUNTRY East Germany

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Wasserwirtschaft

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1. The East German Amt fuer Wasserwirtschaft has been experiencing difficulties because of the falling ground water level and has requested several 1000 kilometer water pipes of greater than normal diameter for compensation purposes. The importation of such pipes from the satellite countries has proven difficult and unsatisfactory. Experiments started during the war to find a substitute for critically short cast iron are being continued. Before 1945, experiments were made to cast basalt into pipe forms producing pipes which show a high degree of hardness, which are highly resistant to corrosion, and show little wear from the sand normally conducted in water. Although basalt melts readily at 1200 degrees Centigrade, the resulting pipes showed little mechanical consistency and the process was too complicated technologically. An attempt to solve this problem by powder metallurgical methods proved unsatisfactory. The extruded pipes were porous and difficult to produce, because the extrusion of powdered basalt mixed with binding agents is difficult.
2. The firm of Mescho in Hermsdorf was ordered to try to increase the plasticity of such pipes by the addition of kaolin. The results from these experiments also were unsatisfactory. The Berliner Gluehlampenwerk tried adding iron powder to the basalt but also with unsatisfactory results. Pressed objects which are sintered at 1200 to 1300 degrees centigrade are very hard, but also extremely brittle. Experimental testing with the melting and casting of basalt was to be resumed in Glaswerk Weisswasser. 1/ After all the 1952 failures, funds for this research were cut, with the exception of a small amount for Glaswerk Weisswasser.

Comment:

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1/ This was to be done under the supervision of Dr. (Ina) Beyersdoerfer

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